Double taxation of Indians residing in United States

983. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any negotiations were carried on with the United States on the question of avoiding double taxation of Indians residing in United States; and

(b) if so, what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Negotiations for concluding an agreement for avoidance of double taxation of income, that is, avoidance of imposition of tax on the same taxpayer in respect of the same income in both the countries, are in progress. It is not possible at this stage to say what the final outcome would be.

Export of sea shells and snails

984. SHRI D. HEERACHAND: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the quantity of sea shells and snails exported during the years 1983-84 and 1984-85; the value of such exports and the names of the countries to which it was exported;

(b) what are the names of the exporters of the above items;

(c) what was the quantity and value for which licences have been issued for export of sea shells and snails during April, to December, 1985 by the Deputy Commissioner, Andamans; and

(d) what are the names of the persons to whom licences have been issued for export of sea shells and snails during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (d) The Export of Sea Shells during 1983-84 was under OGL-3 and in 1984-85 and in the current policy i.e. 1985—88 it is 'On Merit'.

The item Sea Snails is covered by 'other Marine Products' of which the export during the period is allowed under OGL-3.

Following two firms only were allowed to export Sea Shells during 1985.

M/s. Fri Port, Madras was permitted to export 20 tonnes Sea Shells for an fob value of @US $ 1425/- per tonne to Japan.

M/s. A. Hami Bros., Bombay was permitted to export 16 Kgs. of Cuddy Shells for Rs. 7600 to Sultanate of Oman.

The export of the items under OGL-3 is allowed by the Customs and no separate statistics are maintained by this office.

Imposition of fine on Banks of Madurai for assisting illegal import of steel

985. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal has imposed a fine on Banks of Madurai for assisting illegal import of steel items by a certain dealer;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of fine imposed and the details of the case;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered to fix the responsibility of the officials of the Bank in this regard; if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to recover the fine from those officials who are responsible for colluding with the dealer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bank of Madura Limited had opened a few letters of credit on behalf of one Shri Vinod Kumar Didwania a dealer in steel items. The Collector of Customs, Madras on grounds of violation of Customs Act, 1962 had adjudicated the cases in respect of these transactions and ordered confiscation of the goods imported under section 111(d) of the Act. Since the supposed importers had not come forward to clear the goods, the Collector of Customs, Madras allowed the same to be redeemed by the Bank of Madura Ltd., as joint holder of the import licences on redemption fines totalling to Rs. 7 lakhs. Central Board of Excise and Customs reviewed this decision of the Collector of Customs, Madras and had thereafter directed him to apply to Customs, Central Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal for enhancement of redemption fines and also for imposition of Personal penalties on Shri Vinod Kumar Didwania and the Bank of Madura Ltd. The Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal allowed the appeals preferred by the Collector of Customs, Madras and enhanced the total fine on Bank of Madura Ltd. from Rs. 7 lakhs to Rs. 35 lakhs and also imposed a penalty of Rs. 10 lakhs on Shri Vinod Kumar Didwania.

(c) and (d) The matter has been taken up with Reserve Bank of India.

Amendment of Baggage Rules

986. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently amended the Baggage Rules for Indians returning for good on transfer of residence from foreign counties;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether adequate publicity in this regard has been given in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) There has been no recent amendment in the Transfer of Residence Rules for Indians returning for good from foreign countries. However, the Baggage Rules have recently been amended to provide *inter alia* that in respect of Colour Televisions, Video Cassette Recorders, Video Cassette Players and Video Cameras imported into India, the duty-free allowance permitted to be set off against the value of these articles would be limited to Rs. 500. The amendments further provide that no concessional duty or free allowance will be available for clearing unaccompanied baggage.

(c) The changes have been intimated to all Indian Missions abroad for adequate publicity in those countries.

Review of public distribution system

987. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the public distribution system with a view to making the essential commodities available to the common man at reasonable prices; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Union Government continuously reviews and monitors the functioning of public Distribution System in the country. The Central